

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Washington Republicans are throwing the facts out the window and are trying to scare the American public into believing that our Nation is less safe today than it was under the administration's supposed Protect America Act.

The Bush administration was wrong when it said the intelligence community would go dark, outrageous, when the act expired earlier this month.

Kenneth Wainstein, the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, said that even after the President's law expired, "intelligence officials would still be able to continue eavesdropping on already-approved targets for another year." And Kate Martin, the Director of the Center for National Security Studies, said our government could immediately listen in on any new individual plotting a terrorist attack without a court order under existing FISA emergency authority.

Clearly, our intelligence community is not going dark. And I would hope that congressional Republicans would stop this scare tactic.

#### EXTEND PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will vote on commonsense legislation to extend the production tax credit and investment tax credit and pay for it by reducing wasteful subsidies to big oil companies.

As an expert in renewable energy, I am confident that this legislation will ease the pain at the pump and allow our economy to create family wage jobs and make America less dependent on foreign oil.

The bill we will vote on comes just after the big five oil companies report record profits. Our bill will channel unnecessary funding that goes to oil companies back to the renewable industry where it's greatly needed. I cannot overstate the urgency of extending the production tax credit and the investment tax credit as soon as possible.

As with any other form of electrical generation, renewable energy products must adhere to development timelines. And if the schedule of a project is delayed due to uncertainty about the tax credits, a year-long construction cycle will be lost, setting our country further behind foreign competition.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to see the importance of this legislation and join us tomorrow in passing it.

#### FISA: PRESIDENT AND REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the politics of fear are alive and well in the

Republican Party. Despite the fact that the House and Senate are actively working to craft a strong new FISA bill, Republicans and the White House refuse to attend the negotiations. Instead, they're insisting that this House simply rubber-stamp a bill that was recently passed by the Senate.

The decision to boycott these negotiations shows that Republicans prefer a political issue rather than a strong new FISA bill.

Democrats are hopeful that Republicans will consider their decision to sit on the sidelines and will instead join us in crafting a bill that protects our country while respecting the fundamental rights of American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats passed a bill in November that meets both of these criteria. Then, earlier this month, the Senate passed its own version. As is common procedure here on Capitol Hill, we are now in the process of negotiating the differences between the two bills in order to come up with the strongest bill possible. I would hope Republicans would want to remain relevant and would join us in passing the strongest FISA bill we can.

#### FISA: PRESIDENT AND REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President Bush and congressional Republicans are playing politics with our national security. They're falsely claiming that the expiration of a temporary provision of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is endangering America and compromising our national security. If that is indeed the case, why did the President threaten to veto any extension of his own law? And why did every House Republican vote against a 21-day extension of the law earlier this month?

If the expiration of this law would, indeed, endanger the American public as Republicans suggest, wouldn't House Republicans do everything in their power to actually keep the law in place? And despite all this fearmongering, House Republicans know that all of our electronic surveillance capabilities are still in place.

Mr. Speaker, while the White House and congressional Republicans play games with our national security, congressional Democrats will continue to work to pass a final FISA bill that will give our intelligence community the tool it needs to protect our Nation while we also protect our citizens' civil liberties.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3521, PUBLIC HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Com-

mittee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 974 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 974

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3521) to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 3521 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

SEC. 3. House Resolution 955 is laid upon the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Texas, Representative SESSIONS. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.